

~~Subst. 2~~
A2
3. (Amended) The rubber tire of claim 1 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber has a 65 to about a 90 percent trans 1,4-content, a 5 to about a 20 percent 1,2-content and a 2 to about a 15 percent cis 1,4-content [and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C].

Subst. 2
A3
5. (Amended) A method of preparing a pneumatic rubber tire having a steel cord reinforced carcass ply and an apex which comprises shaping and curing an uncured pneumatic rubber tire in a mold by pressing said tire outwardly against a mold surface under conditions of heat and pressure to cause at least the tread rubber of said tire to flow and cure against said mold surface, the improvement comprising the use of a rubber composition in the apex comprised of, based on 100 parts by weight rubber, (A) about 80 to about 97 parts by weight of at least one diene rubber selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic cis 1,4-polyisoprene rubber, cis 1,4-polybutadiene rubber; and (B) about 3 to about 20 parts by weight of a trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber having at least 65 percent trans 1,4-content and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C.

A4
7. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber has a 65 to about a 90 percent trans 1,4-content, a 5 to about a 20 percent 1,2-content and a 2 to about a 15 percent cis 1,4-content [and, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting point in the range of about 55°C to about 65°C].

REMARKS:

Applicants have amended the claims in a manner so as to more specifically recite the various aspects of the present invention. In particular, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to now specify that the trans 1,4-polybutadiene rubber has, in its uncured state, a first major melting point in the range of about 35°C to about 45°C and a second minor melting in the range of from about 55°C to about 65°C. Claims 3 and 7, which had previously specified the two melting points, have been amended wherein these melting